

The spanking opportunity in ‘Castrovalva’ is obvious: a large section of the story is built around the two female companions intentionally deceiving the Doctor. It’s in Part 1 that Nyssa and Tegan set themselves up for a spanking, when they decide to keep from the Doctor the fact that Adric has disappeared: Tegan takes the lead in the decision and Nyssa rather doubtfully concurs. This is a minor subplot that keeps surfacing as the girls evidently feel guilty and unsure whether they have done the right thing. That leads to the false Adric appearing to Nyssa in Part 3, to reinforce her original decision. It is all drawn out by the fact that the Doctor is not himself: he doesn’t notice Adric’s absence for the longest time, and he is also taking longer than usual to settle down in his new persona and once again become the Doctor... which, in my version of the show, also means becoming a spanker. Everything finally resolves later in Part 3, when he is starting to recover. He has been trying with mounting frustration to remember who is missing, and does so after his encounter with the Castrovalvan child who teaches him to count beyond 2. Into the room he bursts to confront Nyssa and Tegan with the thunderous demand: ‘Where’s Adric?’

Nyssa’s response in the television version is excellent, a kind of guilty bewilderment which could so easily indicate that she knows she’s about to be spanked and just can’t think of a way out of it. In my version this clearly establishes for the Doctor who has been the prime mover in the deception, and the one who deserves to go over his knee. Decisive now, he acts on this. He claps his hands together with a satisfying smack, takes her left earlobe firmly between finger and thumb and leads Nyssa across the room to the chair. Sitting down, he pulls her over his lap, and for the upended Nyssa the die is cast: there’s nothing she can say or do that will save her until the Doctor decides it’s time to stop. He raises a stern hand and brings it down hard across her smooth velvet bottom, now pointing at the ceiling. Nyssa lets out a squeal, and another as the second spank falls. Tegan crosses the room. ‘Doctor,’ she protests, but the Doctor continues to spank the wailing, flailing Nyssa, with all his pentup frustration channeled into his strong right hand as it descends again and again onto her vibrating velvet curves.

And where *\*is\** Adric? From his vantage point in the Master’s web, he watches the scene, troubled by the knowledge that in fact Tegan is the guiltier of the two girls, the one who should really be getting her bottom spanked. But since it is his mental energy that created Castrovalva and holds it together, maybe there is something he can do about it. Concentrating hard, he sets about creating yet another minor spatial anomaly for the place...

Suddenly the room and everything in it lurches around the still form of the seated, spanking Doctor. The squealing Nyssa finds herself deposited facedown on the bed. At the same time, the standing Tegan is jerked a similar distance towards the Doctor. Just above the knees, her legs make contact with his, and the momentum topples her forward across his lap. The Doctor continues to spank, his target now the lilac seat of an air hostess uniform where before it was Traken velvet. Tegan flutters her legs helplessly and yelps, while Nyssa looks round to see

what has happened. Finally the sound of slaps subsides and the perplexed, sore Tegan struggles to her feet.

'I don't like it,' says the Doctor, and the two girls bite down their impulse to concur. 'There's something the matter with Castrovalva.' And as Tegan and Nyssa rub their smarting derrieres, he crosses to the bedroom window to look out on the chaos of the town square and the cliffhanger realization that they are caught in a space-time trap!